

What are the Information Needs of Communities & Citizens? Because the impact of the recession is hard felt here, people need a lot of survival information regarding jobs & training opportunities as well as financial information to help people hold on to their mortgages.

I'd like to see the elections covered with some initiative. We have important statewide and Congressional elections coming up.

I'd like to see a more sophisticated concept of "diversity" in coverage topics.

I depend on the National media like the NY Times, Washington Post and Wall Street Journal (and CNN & MSNBC) for national and international news. But I wish I could see serious coverage of the West as a region.

How is Commercial Media Serving Your Community?

In a word, terribly. Impact of the recession is typically covered with glossy stories that parrot Chamber of Commerce views or the studies CofC commissions, or those of local realtor groups. Little investigative journalism.

The Economy beat should mean CLOSE coverage of the legislature and state and city agencies supposedly involved with economic development.

Elections: Political coverage has been (as usual) already focusing on the horse race and not the horses. We have few other news sources for those elections except one major newspaper and a very good half-hour public television show that runs most week days. The NPR affiliate doesn't do much. And the commercial radio programming is virtually all laughably biased. The AZ Republic newspaper is very slow on the draw at anticipating interest or initiating election topics. The elections seem to be covered based on what press releases the candidates send out. No news initiative whatsoever. And the network affiliate coverage is ridiculously stupid or at least insipid. New Times, the local weekly, used to go pretty deep on this stuff, but they don't run as many stories now, and seem not to be sure what to cover any more.

Regional Coverage: The West is growing and issues that arise here are often unique to the region, but the Eastern papers understandably don't cover this region comprehensively (or especially knowledgeably, for that matter). I sometime see good regional coverage on The Daily Best or Huff Post (less so), but really, who's going to carry the ball on this? The Denver Post tries, but there's only one weekly section there that I'm interested in. The LA Times used to be more regional, but is increasingly confined to California, it seems. Tribal Americans are virtually ignored, except for occasional enviro or feature stories. And the local media concept of "Diversity" is a joke. It means covering Cinco de Mayo or eruptions like SB 1070 and othersie quoting as many "ethnics" as possible on the usual old stories. The diversity concept rarely influences story choice. Minorities are forever covered as "the other."UGH. I could go on and on. Educatio is covered in such a piecemeal way t!

hat I never get the big picture unless the Supt. of public instruction write an Op/Ed.

POLICY: I think it's time to stop the consolidation. The Republic has virtually driven the Tribune into the ground here. Also, maybe public policy could influence the profitability for actual news sites in the Internet. Everyone steals from them, and yet they cvan'ty seem to find a way to make other outlets pay. It's time to make bloggers etc. pay for real journalism.

What is the State of Noncommercial, Nonprofit, and Public Media?

KJZZ, the NPR affiliate, says it has a grant to hire an investigative team, so that is promising. But so far, they just read stories snatched from the newspapers.

Horizon on Channel 8, the public TV station, is consistently good. Its original host was very good but he retired. Now they've found another very good smart host in Ted Simon (?), so that is auspicious.

The silly Cronkite news service from ASU's J school is kids' stuff -- but the Republic picks up their coverage of local news all the time, rather than pay their own experienced reporters to do it. There's the online AZ Guardian, which costs too much but covers state gov't well (when I'm able to access it - which is rarely).

For environmental news, I rely on the press releases sent out by various nonprofit activists. It shouldn't be that way.

What is the Impact of the Internet and Mobile Information?

Arizona Guardian.com is great but is too expensive for a general audience.

AZCentral.com is just horrible -- if it bleeds it leads journalism is alive!!! Gannett is much more like Rupert Murdoch than it would like to admit!

Phoenix New Times website covers the right topics but doesn't do enough -- and doesn't link to useful daily resources. To be serious about their news mission, they need some beat reporting at the legislature and the state agencies. Small staff, I guess.

I've tried getting news via social networks -- seems idiotic. It's like trying to "read" Jackson Pollock.

Drip after drip, shmear after shmear after shmear.